

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 7-21, 24-25, and 32-126 are cancelled. Claims 1-6, 22-23, and 26-31 remain in this application and, as amended herein, are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 22-23, and 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunn (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,365) in view of Rothert (U.S. Patent No. 7,141,610) and Murakami (U.S. Patent No. 7,181,409). Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the relied on references.

As amended herein, claim 1 calls for:

a movable body management apparatus operable to manage said plurality of movable body apparatuses, the movable body management apparatus including:

retrieval information reception means for receiving, from a mobile communication terminal, movable body retrieval information that includes a movable body retrieval request and a current position of the mobile communication terminal[.]

(Emphasis added.) Neither the relied on sections of Bunn, the relied on sections of Rothert, nor the relied on sections of Murakami disclose or suggest a movable body management apparatus that receives from a mobile communication terminal movable body retrieval information that includes a movable body retrieval request and a current position of the mobile communication terminal.

Rather, Murakami requires a person desiring to obtain use of a vehicle to enter a request and other information into a computer system located at a destination port or kiosk. Moreover, Murakami indicates that the user enters the destination port or kiosk into the computer system. (See col.7 11.8-11.) The relied on sections of the reference are not at all concerned with a user entering such a request from a mobile

communication terminal and thus lacks the advantage of the present invention that the user is not restricted to only making such requests at a destination port or kiosk. Moreover, because the user enters information that includes the destination port or kiosk, the relied on sections of Murakami are not concerned with taking advantage of the positional information provided by a mobile communication terminal.

Amended claim 1 also calls for:

a movable body management apparatus operable to manage said plurality of movable body apparatuses, the movable body management apparatus including:

...
notification means for notifying the mobile communication terminal of a position of an available one of the plurality of movable body apparatuses nearby the current position of the mobile communication terminal and for providing the mobile communication terminal with identification information associated with the available movable body apparatus[.]

(Emphasis added.) For at least the same reasons set out above, neither the relied on sections of Bunn, the relied on sections of Rothert, nor the relied on sections of Murakami disclose or suggest a movable body management apparatus that notifies a mobile communication terminal of a position of an available movable body apparatus nearby the current position of the mobile communication terminal.

For at least the above reasons, it follows that neither the relied-on sections of Bunn, the relied-on sections of Rothert, nor the relied-on sections of Murakami, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the combination defined in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentably distinct and unobvious over the cited references.

Independent claims 22 and 26 have each been amended to call for features similar to those set out in the above excerpt of claim 1. Therefore, each of claims 22 and 26 is patentably

distinct and unobvious over the relied-on sections of Bunn, Rothert, and Murakami for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, claim 23 depends from claim 22, and claims 27-29 depend from claim 26. Therefore, each of claims 2-4, 23, and 27-29 is distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as the claim from which it depends.

Claims 5-6 and 30-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunn in view of Rothert and Murakami and further in view of the article titled "Rental Car Revelations" (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, May 14, 2000, pg. 2). Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the relied on references.

Claims 5-6 depend from claim 1, and claims 30-31 depend from claim 26. Therefore, each of the claims is distinguishable over the relied-on sections of Bunn, Rothert, and Murakami for at least the same reasons.

The relied-on sections of "Rental Car Revelations" do not overcome the deficiencies of the relied-on sections of Bunn, Rothert, and Murakami.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the Examiner's objection and the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 103(a).

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

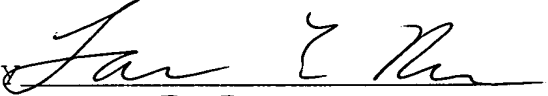
Application No.: 10/088,787

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-805

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: July 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Lawrence E. Russ

Registration No.: 35,342

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicant

877407_1.DOC